

larvæ of no fewer than seventeen have been discovered; and the food-plants of these belong exclusively to the two natural orders Rosaceæ and Amentiferæ, the former nourishing ten species, and the latter furnishing food for seven or eight. Of the twenty-two species, four are North American, the remainder are European; and of these, nine (or, again, exactly one half) are known to occur in Britain. Eight of the British species are treated of in the present volume, which thus includes the natural history of nearly the whole of the native forms of the two genera.

In his ninth volume Mr. Stainton enters upon the hardest portion of his task, namely the description of the enormous genus *Gelechia*, the most numerous in species of all the Tineina. The number of *British* species described by the author in the 'Insecta Britannica' was no less than ninety-five, and several have since been added to our native list; the European and exotic species are also very numerous. Under these circumstances, and considering the difficulty attendant on the grouping of such a multitude of nearly related forms, we can hardly wonder that Mr. Stainton has postponed his general considerations on *Gelechia* to his next volume, which, like the one now before us, will contain twenty-four species of the genus.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Chevreulius callensis of Lacaze-Duthiers.

By JOSHUA ALDER.

IN the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' for November last, M. Lacaze-Duthiers has given an interesting account of an Ascidian of a very peculiar structure, forming, in some respects, a connecting link between the Tunicata and the Lamellibranchiata. This animal the distinguished author conceives to be new and unique, and has therefore constituted for it a new genus under the name of *Chevreulius*. Of the great interest attached to this genus there can be no doubt; but M. Lacaze-Duthiers is mistaken in supposing that it is new to science, as it was described upwards of ten years ago (in July 1855), by Professor Stimpson, in the 'Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences,' under the name of *Schizascus*, and two species characterized, which he had met with in the Chinese seas. A specimen of one of these, *S. papillosus*, was kindly sent to me by that eminent naturalist. It bears a great resemblance to the figures given by M. Lacaze-Duthiers, differing principally in the papillose or echinated character of the valvular opening. A species apparently of the same genus was obtained in the Indian Ocean by Dr. Macdonald, who has also characterized it as a new genus, under the name of *Peroïdes*. This I only know through a paper of his in the 'Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh' (vol. xxiii. p. 176), where it is stated to have "two apertures on the same plane, protected by a D-shaped opercular fold of the test common to both." It

would thus appear that three generic appellations have been given to this curious genus, that of Professor Stimpson having the precedence. Naturalists are indebted, however, to M. Lacaze-Duthiers for the detailed account he has now given of its structure.

On the Extension of certain marine Fishes to the freshwater Rivers of India.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN.—Dr. Günther, in reply to my note impugning his statement regarding the extension of certain genera of marine fishes to Nepal, states that he has received information that several species of *Therapon* are exclusively inhabitants of fresh water. Now, without denying this statement, I must say that it is quite opposed to my own experience. No doubt some species of *Therapon* frequent streams of fresh water *near the sea*, as well as tidal rivers and backwaters, as I many years ago pointed out, stating that I had caught one species of *Therapon*, with fly, in small streams on the Malabar coast; but I doubt if any species extends, in non-tidal rivers, more than a very few miles from the sea.

2. This, however it may be, does not affect my refutation of its extension to Nepal, which I emphatically deny, as well as that of the other marine genera of fishes mentioned by Günther as extending to Nepal. I have not his paper at hand, but, writing from memory, aided by a Catalogue of Hodgson's collections, I believe that, besides *Therapon* and *Scatophagus*, he makes a *Serranus*, two *Diagramma*, *Sillago*, and *Trachinotus* all extend to the rivers of Nepal, which, I need hardly again say, is perfectly erroneous. The only marine genera that I know which extend beyond the influence of the tides in India are *Coroina*, *Mugil*, and one or two Clupeoid fishes, including the celebrated Hilsa fish (*Alosa ilisha*), which, however, does not extend nearly so far as the mountain-streams of Nepal.

3. With regard to Dr. Günther's rejection of my generic name *Pristolepis*, because he was unable to recognize it, I can only state that a much less experienced ichthyologist, Dr. Day, in a copy of his 'Fishes of Cochin,' quite recently received by me, though forwarded last July, gives a footnote to *Catopra malabarica* (in manuscript), in which he states that in his large work with illustrations he shall give it as his opinion that *Pristolepis* must be preferred to *Catopra*.

4. The assumption by any one individual, however learned, to reject a genus or species because he states that he himself finds it impossible to recognize it, is certainly not authorized in the rules regarding nomenclature laid down in the Proceedings of the British Association.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

T. C. JERDON,

Surgeon-Major.

Camp, Muzaffurnuggur,
December 6, 1865.